

Minutes

HSA Meeting

October 10, 2006

Present: Christine Newman, Shaun Seaberry, Kim Bayliss, Joy Carroll Wallis, Carolyn Barnhardt, Sheri Carline, Paul Basken, Carla Hillery, Lisa Woods, April Payne-McMillian, Jesonne White, Leslie Tune, Tysan Williams, Lisa Woods, Cathy Rebuson, Mark Boss, Deborah Evans, David Shapinsky, Kelley Ellsworth, Regina Bell, Gwen Wright, Claudia Withers, Jocelyn Drakeford, Laura Broach, Mary Oates Walker, Phronie Jackson, Marla Blount.

Absent: Eileen Langholtz, Mercedes Lemp, Kimberly Hughes

Meeting came to order at 6:30 pm.

Gwen Wright introduced the newly elected Secretary, Kelley Ellsworth, and the newly elected Teacher Representative, Carolyn Barnhardt. Kimberly Hughes, the other Teacher Representative, could not attend because she was attending a teacher workshop.

Treasurer's Report (Deborah Evans):

Eaton grossed approximately \$860 on the Election Day Cantina, netted \$600; T-shirt sales made \$400 at Back to School Night, and spent close to \$1000 on new shirts for the Block Party, etc.

Educational Needs Fund (Kim Bayliss): \$20,985 pledged, \$18,185 received.

We are generally sticking to the approved budget and a more detailed report will be presented at the next meeting.

Principal's Report (Dr. Drakeford):

We presented a balanced budget with budget reconciliation. All faculty positions are secure. We will be selecting 1.5 new ELL teachers. Ms. Blakeslee will be both special ed and math resource teacher because special ed numbers are down.

Even if our enrollment dips a little, all faculty positions are secure. Our weighted formula is \$4500 per student. We can pull funds from elsewhere to cover a few students if they drop out.

Dr. Drakeford met with 100 Black Men, the DC Chapter, who are interested in working with Eaton on developing a tutorial program. They will work with small groups of children who scored on the edge between proficient and basic on the DC CAS in order to help them move up. This will happen after school. Those students who scored below basic will continue to get services in-house because their needs are greater. Tentative start date is November 6.

Dr. Drakeford would like to set up many more contacts and partnerships. We are part of the Embassy Adoption program and our embassy is Cameroon, but she would not like to limit it there.

David Shapinsky pointed out we already have partnerships with Washington Ballet, National Building Museum, and the Chinese government. There was discussion about how to put more of these together. Friends of Rock Creek's Environment is one possibility. We could let it be known, on the website and elsewhere, that Eaton is looking for partners.

Security: Dr. Drakeford is concerned about people entering through doors other than the front door, and not knowing who is an Eaton parent. There was a theft from an outsider at Murch recently. There was much discussion of ways we could identify Eaton parents, such as: wearing a bright Eaton button, wearing a badge attached to a chain around the neck like in some workplaces, locking all doors and giving all parents a key, giving out laminated cards to parents, with different colors for different grades, having small ID cards you could attach to your key ring, etc. It was suggested that this issue be put to the parents before making a decision.

There was further discussion about other ways to improve security, such as moving the security desk down so it is right in front of the door, making sure all doors but the front door are locked (although there may be Fire Codes that make this impossible). Dr. Drakeford will talk with Officer Cobb about being more rigorous about having people sign in and about changing the timing of her walk-throughs so she is at the desk during times of heavy ingress.

School Supplies: The school supplies sale was a great success. In the end, approximately \$400 in net profits was made, plus Staples gave us \$300 in gift cards and we were able to provide extra supplies for teachers. If we do this next year, we may want to see if free supplies can be provided for the neediest students.

Election Day Cantina: We made over \$600 net on the primary, and will hold another at the November election.

Tutoring (Laura Broach): Laura ran it the first year with another parent. Last year she ran it alone. This year she would like to hand this project off to another parent, although she will help with the transition. Anyone interested? The task at hand is a little smaller this year (fewer tutors) due to more stringent security measures for our tutors, with background check, TB test and fingerprints. This is a good outreach and PR opportunity, and a way to meet all the teachers to ascertain their students' needs. Call Laura if interested: 667-1074.

Back to School Night: Some feedback from parents about Back to School night was that there was not enough time with teachers, but that the assembly went more quickly and succinctly than in past years. Other parents felt that time with teachers was sufficient and

was bolstered with packets from every teacher. Dr. Drakeford explained that she had held firm to the 8:30 pm end time over concern for teachers who were there all day, and for the students as well. Tired students mean more discipline and absentee problems the next day. Parents stated they would be more responsive when told ahead of time of changes coming and reasons for them. Another parent suggested structuring the time differently so that there is more time for question and answers in the classrooms. Another parent suggested that parents with more than one student could possibly start the classroom conversation time earlier and have a quick meeting with one teacher during the assembly.

Block Party (Deborah Evans): The Block Party will be held THIS Saturday 12-4. Volunteers will start at 10:00. Weather report: 57 degrees and sunny. Parent volunteers will be coordinated by food captains, concessions captains, activity captains, etc. There will be fish frying, ribs, ponies, rock wall, magician, clowns, face painting, Elmo and Sponge Bob. All will generate money for Eaton. In addition, there will be a fire truck, a local radio station will be doing a shout out, and the Cleveland Park Historical Society will be filming the event. Each game/activity will have an instruction sheet on the table. Marla is the games captain. Linda Adams is the food captain. Kim Bayliss pointed out that if we do a big push for publicity, this could take the place of the Cathedral event that is not happening this year. Deborah and Marla have already gone to Janney, Murch, Lafayette, etc. to promote the event and offer a special deal. Their PTAs will get 10% of wrist bands sold at their schools prior to the event. We will be able to know who bought wrist bands from other schools by the colors. Several parents volunteered to sell wrist bands at some of the local private schools.

Holiday Christmas Tree Sales (Mark): We might have more competitors this year since Oyster, Murch, and Deal are selling trees as well. Don Blanchon, Hamlet Bent and Trish Berman are running this fundraiser. This year they will buy more small trees. Marla suggested we get the word out by sending home flyer strips to give to friends and family to remind them to stop by to support the school. Lisa suggested we order extra Sally Foster rolls of wrapping paper to sell at the tree sale.

Auction (Tysan Williams): This year's auction will be held at the Omni Shoreham hotel (a new Eaton parent works there: thank you!). The auction will be on April 14, earlier than usual. The room is gorgeous and we can set up the night before. Every year the Shoreham has a special relationship with one school. This year the Omni Shoreham will recognize Eaton and will invite Eaton parents to many events for free. The only requirement is that the kids have to come Christmas carol for two nights. Tysan said that the Shoreham's fee for using the hotel for the auction was very reasonable and that we would be pleased about the reduction in expense in the Auction budget. She did not reveal the auction theme, although she said that it has been chosen. The theme will be announced at the next HSA meeting.

Temporary Kindergarten Assistant for Ms. Rice (Mark): The HSA has hired someone temporarily to help out until DCPS finalizes the position and hires someone permanently. This temporary aide will probably not be the permanent aide hired by DCPS.

Gwen mentioned that the decision to hire this aide was made quickly and suggested that we need to officially set up an executive committee to make urgent decisions between board meetings.

Centennial: 2011 is our centennial and we would like to start getting ready. Step one is getting an alumni association together. There will be an alum sign-in sheet at the Block Party. We can build a data base now. Agnes Williams, former owner of the Orioles, is an alum. Marion Wright Edelman is one of our alums. David Shapinsky offered to do an oral history on professional video. It would be nice to take pictures of any alums at the block party to get ready for promotional materials.

Communications: Gwen and Mark feel they are not doing as good a job as their predecessors. How could we fully utilize the website, the bulletin board, etc? Tonight's board outside did not have a notice of the HSA meeting. Next time we need an earlier meeting notice with an agenda put out. (The meeting reminder did not go out via email until this afternoon.) Flyers on the doors and/or backpacks should supplement emails for those parents who do not use email. The flyer could have the meeting notice on the front and the proposed agenda on the back.

Sally Foster deadline is Friday, although people will have a little longer if they are ordering on the internet.

Parent Outreach: A suggestion was made to have a special HSA meeting "calling all new parents" for them to sign up for tasks and get involved. Mark Boss responded that this could be one of our topical HSA meetings. Topical meetings would be where there would be a discussion topic included in the agenda of the meeting with plenty of time for parents to talk. This might be on next month's agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01.